

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT
STAFF: Habte Kifle
MEETING DATE: July 11, 2007

ITEM: 5C

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION, YOSEMITE SLOUGH WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT, CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, Issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification

DISCUSSION: The California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) has applied for approval to remove contaminated soil and to restore wetlands within the proposed Yosemite Slough Wetlands Restoration Project (Project).

The Project is part of the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area and is located in southeast San Francisco, north of Candlestick Park (Appendix B). The Project area was historically part of the tidal marshes and mudflats of San Francisco Bay. Yosemite Slough's tidal habitat was lost due to gradual filling for residential and industrial use from the 1850s through the early 1970s.

The Project consists of about 34 acres, and it will include the following:

- A total of about 12 acres of new (restored) tidal wetland habitat;
- Two isolated nesting bird islands, one of which is specifically designed for special status species;
- Nursery areas for fish and benthic organisms;
- Transitional and upland areas to buffer sensitive habitats;
- Public interpretative trails;
- Viewpoints; and,
- Passive public use areas with an environmental interpretive center.

The scope of the Project is to restore an historical fill area, resulting in a net increase of 12 acres of wetlands, and to enhance associated transitional habitats and natural upland areas. The Project will result in 1.2 acres of unavoidable temporary impacts to existing fringe wetlands and riprap to connect the restoration area to the Bay and Yosemite Slough. There will also be approximately 0.05 acres of permanent fill of tidal marsh and open waters due to grading activities needed to create the transitions from open water to low marsh habitat and nesting bird islands.

In 2003 and 2004, the Department conducted a soil and groundwater investigation to assess the quality of soil to be excavated and potential reuse options for it, including as wetland or upland soil cover. The preliminary soil investigation

results revealed the presence of metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The Department plans to perform in-situ remediation or remove and properly dispose of off-site the contaminated soils excavated from the Project site. It will also excavate impacted soil to remove sources of pollutants to groundwater.

The Tentative Order (Appendix A) establishes mitigation success criteria and monitoring and reporting requirements for habitat restoration. The Tentative Order also establishes action goals for surface soil and imported soil for upland areas and aquatic habitats. The Department is required to submit a workplan for soil sampling frequency, soil and groundwater screening criteria, and soil cleanup action that will be consistent with the action goals.

We received no comments, and we anticipate no additional comments or testimony.

RECOMMEN-
DATION: Approval of the Tentative Order

FILE No. 2169.6061 (HTK)

APPENDICES: A: Tentative Order
B: Site Location Map